

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments shown in the attached sheets and the following remarks.

In the last Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 9, 10 and 12 “as best understood” on Asamoto Patent No. 3,945,676. The Examiner explained under the heading “RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS” that the recitation in amended claim which was intended to distinguish from Asamoto was self contradictory as well as contradictory to claim 9, and therefore, could not be given weight in distinguishing from the prior art.

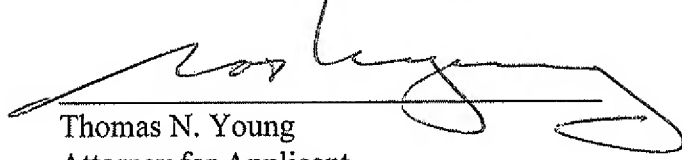
Applicant appreciates the Examiner’s careful evaluation of claim language and apologizes for the errors in amending the claim language which gave rise to this discrepancy. The errors were unintentional and to our belief are cured by the amendments made herein. Specifically, claim 1 now recites that the pad portions move between respective closed and positions and in the closed position the pad portions are beyond the seat, on opposite sides of the medial plane and spaced equal distance relative to the normal plane. The claim goes on to say that going to the open position, the first pad portion moves away from the normal plane and the second pad portion moves away from both the medial and normal planes. This was the original intent and is fully supported by the specification in paragraphs 0014, 0015, 0043, 0044, and 0046.

The clarifying amendment is believed to overcome both the sections 102 and 103 rejections based on Asamoto and Asamoto in combination with Wood III. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowability of claims 5-8 and 11. As the claims on which they depend are now believed to be in condition for allowance, these claims are resubmitted in original form.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Young', written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: July 18, 2007

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